

AccessSCSDB-Screen Reader Version

Photograph: Student reading a braille book

Caption: Ari'Yanna Smith enjoys reading at the SC School for the Blind.

Fun Activities Inspire Students to Read

Reading festivals, fairs, and parties are all part of the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind's reading initiative. The goal is to make reading a fun activity that students enjoy.

Students can earn prizes and attend pizza parties for meeting their reading goals. They can swap books from home for new books at the red "Read Box" in the school library.

Students have read recipes and information about other countries in preparation for the International Festival. They've competed for awards at a unique Reading Fair that's just like a Science Fair with display boards to promote books.

In the coming months, students can look forward to a Gingerbread Celebration and a Spelling Bee. There's also a birthday party for Dr. Seuss complete with birthday cake and tall red and white hats. To finish up a great year of reading, there's even a summer reading party where students can pick a book to take home, read, and keep.

"Success in life is often determined by reading ability," said Dr. Page McCraw, director of curriculum and instruction. "We want to help students see how fun reading can be and, ultimately, to make it an ongoing part of their lives. That's why we're calling our new reading initiative 'Read for Your Life.' "

Photo: Student dressed in Czech clothing in front of the Czech display

Caption: The International Fair was one of many fun activities designed to encourage reading. Kaneesha Sampson worked on the Czech exhibit with other members of Lesley Aycock's class. The class won second place for their hard work.

School for the Deaf Selected To Participate in National Research on Reading

Our School for the Deaf has been selected to participate in a national research project to improve reading in deaf and hard of hearing children. Researchers from Georgia State University will gather data on 360 children nationwide, including 17 SC School for the Deaf students.

The research will help educators better understand the way deaf and hard of hearing students learn. The data gathered will be used to create educational models with a goal of improving reading skills from kindergarten to second grade nationwide.

The research is part of a \$10 million grant to Georgia State University from the National Center for Special Education Research of the Institute of Education Sciences, the research arm of the US Department of Education.

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Students Say Thank You on Veterans Day

Photo: Student and Army sergeant holding student-made flag

Caption: Collin Melba helped present a student-made flag to U.S. Army Sgt. Scott Melba.

Photo: Students holding a banner that reads "Thank you Veterans."

Caption: Students said thank you to veterans with a banner and "Go USA" signs.

Photo: Students signing and holding flags.

Caption: Students signed the national anthem.

Photo: Author Sheila Ingle telling a story to students seated on the floor in front of her

Caption: Author Sheila Ingle told the story of Kate Barry, a Revolutionary War heroine.

Photo: Group of smiling boys with one making the thumbs up sign

Caption: All smiles and a thumbs up! From left are Ford Scarborough, Sasha Patrick, Daniel Martin, and Joshua Perkins.

School Improvement Meetings Now Online

Now parents can join School Improvement Council meetings online. We also provide teleconferencing for those who would like to attend the meeting at our Columbia Outreach Center. To access the meetings, go to www.scsdb.org/SchoolImprovementCouncil.

Our School is Pure Gold!

Twelve years of gold level recognition – that’s an accomplishment few schools can claim! We’re proud to have been named a Palmetto Gold School for 12 straight years.

The SC Department of Education first awarded the recognition to the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind in 2002. Ever since then, our performance on the State School Report Card has merited the award. The award recognizes excellent academic achievement.

Welcome to Access SCsDB

Dear Friend,

We’ve named our new reading initiative “Read for Your Life.” We chose the name because reading is essential to academic achievement, good jobs, and quality of life.

We’re encouraging students to read every day in every way – from Internet sites to recipes to food labels. Our goal is to make reading a lifestyle students will continue long beyond their years here.

You can help us teach the value of reading. If you are a parent, take advantage of every opportunity to read with your child. Encourage your child to read signs as you travel and labels as you shop. Mail letters to your child and ask them to write back. Include your child as you browse the Internet for vacation ideas and as you read the instructions for a new appliance.

If you are a professional serving our students, look for ways to incorporate reading into your work. Reading can be a part of fine arts, physical education, and after-school programs as well as the traditional academic classes. Use materials that naturally interest students and find creative ways to make reading fun.

We invite everyone to help with our reading activities. We invite you to come read with our students. Donations of new books, prizes, and healthy party foods are always welcome.

Help us give our students the gift of reading and all of the benefits it brings to life.

Sincerely,

Maggie

Margaret Park

President

Maggie Park has 22 years’ experience in special education programs including teacher, program director, principal, division director, adjunct professor, and administrator. She was the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind’s first National Board certified teacher.

Coming Up at SCSDb!

- 12/20/13: **Holiday Programs in Schools**
 School Improvement Council
 11 a.m., Swearingen Center, SCSDb Campus
- 1/17-20/14: **Adventures in Braille, SCSDb Campus**
- 2/6/14: **SC Regional Braille Challenge**
 SC Commission for the Blind, Columbia
- 2/14/14: **School Improvement Council**
 11 a.m., Swearingen Center, SCSDb Campus
- 3/7/14: **Vision Summit**
 10 a.m., SC Archives and History Center, Columbia

Please see our full calendar at www.scsdb.org. For more information on events or any of the articles in this publication, please contact info@scsdb.org or toll-free at 1-888-447-2732.

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SCSDb Gold Stars!

Special Olympics medals were awarded in bocce doubles to Alexis Blandshaw and Devon Carter, silver; Ther Tee Vang and Jason Harmon, silver; and Jaclyn Breakfield and Brandy Reyes, bronze.

Photos of Students, No captions

The girls goalball team finished third and the boys team finished fourth at a recent regional goalball tournament in Atlanta.

Photo: Student in blindfold serving a goalball.

Caption: Anna Milligan serves the ball during a goalball competition. Goalball is played with a ball that has a bell in it so athletes can hear it and follow the ball. All players wear blindfolds to level the competition among players who are visually impaired and blind.

Photos of students who received art awards

Caption: Students receiving art awards at the Piedmont Interstate Fair included: Gersori Baires, first place; Zeria Parker, second place; and Jasper Womick, third place.

Photos of soccer players

Caption: The Little Hornets Soccer Team finished the season as undefeated champs! Special congratulations to Andrew Bibbs, Tyrelle Stevenson, Jacob Scarborough, Ford Scarborough, and Daniel Martin for scoring goals.

Photo of flag football players with Olympic medals

Flag Football Team Wins Gold

The flag football team won gold at the Special Olympics Fall Games in Greenville. Left to right: Coach Joe Johnson, Hakeem Green, Dominique Dotson, Curtis Sparkman, Kadiedra Hay, Maya Patterson, Charnaye Brown, and Coach Aly Nagy.

International Festival Winners Announced

The winners of this year's International Festival were:

1 st Place	Italy	Chris Turner's Classes, Art Department
2 nd Place	Czech Republic	Lesley Aycock's Class, Cedar Springs Academy
3 rd Place	Nigeria	Christy Wagner's Class, Deaf Elementary
Honorable Mention	United States	Vicki Banks' Class , School for the Blind
Honorable Mention	Ghana	Josh Padgett' Students, Art Department/ Kathy Goodwin's Class, School for the Blind

Students Name Shark

The state museum's 43-foot-long shark has been named "Finn" by the students in Taylor Carvajal's class. The museum asked our students to select their top 10 shark names. Museum volunteers narrowed the list to five, which were posted on the museum's website for public voting. Congratulations to (left to right) Shane Aikens, Kelsey McDougald, Keilyn Bello, Taylor Carvajal, Christina Schlierholz, Kaitlin Wilson, Emily Guyton, and Salve De Gorostiza. Not pictured: Horace Lott.

Photo: Soccer players smiling for the camera

Caption: Left to right: School for the Deaf YMCA soccer team members TaNayia Moates, Alasia Pifher, Khyiana Tate, Tyreel Stevenson, Alexis Strother-Egleston, and Faith Glover.

Photo: SCsDB player blocking for another football player running with the football

Caption: Lineman LeAndrew Watson (#44) makes a lead block for running back Fernandez Johnson (#11) against the tough defense of the Georgia Tigers.

Photos of new students

Captions:

New students

School for the Blind

Jordan Carnes of Seneca
Caleb DeBari of Myrtle Beach
Michael Duffell-Hoffman of Lancaster
Aryeona Freeman of Walterboro
Makayla Greeley of Pauline
Anna Milligan of Rock Hill
Allyssa Owens of Hamer
Mark Skawinski of Irmo

School for the Deaf

Xavier Adams of Georgetown
Andres Benitez of Newberry
Carter Bryant of Spartanburg
Linda Buckendahl of Spartanburg
Yasmeen Crute of Orangeburg
Ka Lyn Dean of Bluffton
Kaylee Ellison of Gray Court
Ella Kovaleva of Inman
Lor'reyell McClinton of Chester
Kevin McRae of Rock Hill
Joel Peterson of Spartanburg
Raymi Robles of Spartanburg
Kyhiana Tate of Spartanburg
Christian Washington of Conway
LeAndrew Watson of Seabrook

Cedar Springs Academy

Cami Cordeiro of Spartanburg
A'She-Rah Jeter of Greer
Brianna Oliphant of Edgefield
De'Juan Peake of Union
Alex Rivera-Hernandez of Greenville
Rebecca Rogers of Moore
Miracle Smith of Roebuck
Eric Yesse of Chesnee

Photo: Student smiling and holding puppy.

Caption: The dog training class has great benefits. In the photo, Alyssa Owens takes a few minutes to pet “Jesse.” Through a partnership with Dogs for Autism, our Applied Academics program is training therapy dogs to assist children with autism.

Photo: Students in crowns lined up on the football field after the announcement of the Homecoming Court.

Homecoming Court Crowned

President Maggie Park, far right, announced Homecoming royalty. Front Row from Left: Princess Ron ‘Ziya Boyd, Princess Hunter Marshall, and Princess Mya Cornelius. Second Row from Left: King Lawrence Black, Queen Chassidy Kelly, King Christopher Jackson, Queen Alexis Tab, King Raekwon Alston, and Queen Sydney Paige Simons.

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Graduate Receives Statewide Employment Achievement Award

Buck Woodall never expected to have such a great job – much less receive a statewide award from the Governor.

The 2009 graduate was recognized for his work at Firehouse Subs and presented the Employment Achievement Award for Small Business last spring. He was selected from applications across the state by the Governor’s Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.

“We always knew Buck would be successful,” said Beth Goodenough, one of Buck’s former teachers. “He has energy, drive, and a super attitude.”

Buck’s family relocated to Spartanburg from Ulmer, SC so that he could attend the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind. As a student, Buck was part of the Working WHEELs (We Help Educate for Employment Life Skills) Program. A cooperative effort with Wofford College, the program provided food service training in a real work environment.

Buck travels to the Firehouse Subs in Boiling Springs by bus. His work responsibilities include refilling the ice machine, cleaning tables, taking out trash, and sweeping the parking lot. He generates extra business by serving as the restaurant’s mascot “Sparky.” In this role, he wears a Dalmatian costume and a fireman’s coat. Passersby see him dancing and twirling a sign in front of the store and turn in to eat at the restaurant.

As the recipient of the Cedar Springs Academy’s Most Outstanding Student Award in 2009, Buck was recognized for good citizenship as well as his success in school. Buck is still a good citizen volunteering at the Whitney Fire Department, Music on Main, and his church.

Buck was supported by SC Vocational Rehabilitation in obtaining his job and initial training. Omar Ghorbani, owner of the Firehouse Subs store, commends Buck for his dependability and for inspiring his co-workers.

Fun Jobs Pay Off at Cedar Springs Academy

Students earn pay checks, deposit them in the bank, and pay their monthly bills through a simulated work program at the Cedar Springs Academy. Through a unique real-world model, students work throughout the school and in their own businesses to develop the skills they will need in the future. Once the simulated monthly bills are paid, students can save their money or buy small items in the various classrooms.

Students businesses include cooking, gardening, candle making, and soap making. Other student jobs include cleaning the dining room, delivering mail, and washing windows. Students go on to practice their work skills at Wofford College through a community partnership.

Photo: Student smiling holding up a paycheck

Caption: It's Pay Day! Ther Tee Vang is all smiles after receiving his first pay check of the year.

Photo: Student smiling and plucking a tomato from a vine

Caption: Aravia Johnson plucks a tomato off a vine planted by students.

Photo: Student gesturing toward the cookies he has made

Caption: Curtis Sparkman shows off the cookies he decorated.

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Access SCSDB

Embrace the Possibilities – Access the Future SC School for the Deaf and the Blind

South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind

355 Cedar Springs Road – Spartanburg, SC 29302

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit 196

Spartanburg, SC 29306

Embracing the Possibilities

The SC School for the Deaf and the Blind works with parents and professionals to help identify and develop each student's highest potential. Together with local school districts, we strive to match children who are deaf or blind with the best educational options to meet their individual needs.

- Options available through the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind include:
- Early intervention programs for infants and toddlers
- PreK-12 education programs on the main campus in Spartanburg (residential and day)
- Specialized vision and hearing services in local school districts statewide
- Mainstreaming opportunities with Spartanburg area school districts
- Summer Camps for children ages 6-14
- A wide variety of accessibility services

All services are available at no cost to families.

SCSDB is Accredited by:

- AdvancEd/Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement
- Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf
- SC Department of Education

Access SCSDB is available in the following formats:

Standard – Braille – Large Print – Spanish – Screen Reader Capable

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